

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03677 251042Z

20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 /078 W

----- 109708

O 251015Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9762

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY

CIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF ROTA SP

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3677

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O.11652: GDS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03677 251042Z

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION APRIL 25: TENSION SUBSIDES WITH
PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE YESTERDAY

REF: BEIRUT 3666 (DTG 241145Z APR 76)

1. "NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT ON THE GROUND YESTERDAY."
THAT HEADLINE IN BEIRUT NEWSPAPER TODAY SUMS UP
THE SECURITY SITUATION OF LAST 24 HOURS. SECURITY
WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO PERMIT PASSAGE OF GASOLINE FROM
WEST TO EAST BEIRUT IN EXCHANGE FOR FLOUR THAT HAD
GONE THE OTHER WAY EARLIER. (SEE REFTEL AND PREVIOUS.)
HOWEVER, AS NEWSPAPERS TODAY ARE QUICK TO ADD,
SMALL ARMS FIRE HAS BROKEN THE CALM IN VARIOUS
TRADITIONAL HOT SPOTS OF THE CITY FROM TIME TO TIME.
ARTILLERY DUELS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT HAVE
LIKEWISE OCCURRED, BUT FAR BELOW THE SCALE OF PREVIOUS
DAYS. SAIZA AND A REJECTIONIST PALESTINIAN GROUP
HAD A BRIEF DUST-UP LAST EVENING AT BOURJ EL BURAJNEH
REFUGEE CAMP IN THE CAPITAL'S OUTSKIRTS.

2. THE BATTLE AROUND AMYOUN IN NORTH LEBANON REPORTEDLY
FLARED UP AGAIN YESTERDAY, AND, SINCE NEITHER SIDE
AS YET SEEMS DISPOSED TO QUIT, MAY DO SO AGAIN.
ZAHLE EXPERIENCED ANOTHER EXCHANGE OF ARTILLERY FIRE.

3. FRANGIE'S SIGNATURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
SHORTLY BEFORE NOON YESTERDAY (BEIRUT 3668, NOTAL)
UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE GENERAL RELAXATION
OF TENSION IN THE CAPITAL. POLITICAL LEADERS ACROSS
BROAD SPECTRUM HAVE WELCOMED THIS MOVE. APART
FROM POSITIVE IMPACT ON SECURITY, WE EXPECT THAT MAIN
EFFECT OF AMENDMENT'S ENACTMENT WILL BE TO USHER IN
MORE ACTIVE PHASE OF PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, WHICH
HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS IN IDLING GEAR WHILE EVERYONE
AWAITED PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE. PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS
WILL PROBABLY LOBBY MORE INTENSIVELY NOW THAT WAY IS
CLEARED FOR SESSION TO ELECT PRESIDENT.

4. IT IS UP TO SPEAKER ASSAAD TO CHOOSE DATE FOR
THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION. THERE IS GENERAL BELIEF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03677 251042Z

IT WILL BE HELD LATTER HALF OF THIS WEEK, POSSIBLY
SATURDAY MAY 1. THIS REMAINS SPECULATION AT THIS STAGE,
HOWEVER. SPEAKER MUST ALSO CONSULT WITH VARIOUS
MILITIA AND ARMY LEADERS ABOUT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS
FOR SESSION. THE PRIVATELY-OWNED VILLA ON THE
CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM "GREEN LINE" WHERE PARLIAMENT MET
APRIL 10 TO VOTE FOR AMENDMENT WILL PROBABLY BE SCENE
OF PRESIDENTIAL VOTE.

WARING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, AMENDMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT03677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760157-0298
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760424/aaaaauls.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 3666
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION APRIL 25: TENSION SUBSIDES WITH PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE YESTERDAY
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE, (FRANGIE, SLEIMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006